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PRESS RELEASE

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IMA-E 26th ASG Civilian Earns Secretary of the Army Award for Valor

HEIDELBERG, GE -- James Stewart received the Secretary of the Army Award for Valor May 9 in Washington, D.C.

Stewart was one of 46 people honored by Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey and Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody during the Presidential Rank and Secretary of the Army Awards Ceremony held at the Pentagon.

Stewart, 29, received the award for valor in a life-threatening circumstance. "It's an exciting experience," he said. "I'm very surprised...I never thought about the award – I just did what I did to save him."

The technician from the Installation Management Agency – Europe's 26th Area Support Group (ASG) construction and maintenance division risked his own life to save a Soldier, Capt. Eric Church, in November. Church was pinned in a possibly explosive vehicle after his car was hit by a German street car.

Stewart pulled Church to safety and administered first aid until medics and military police arrived.

Stewart's girlfriend, Sandra Diederichs, attended the awards ceremony with him, as did family, friends and the local newspaper from back home in Cecil County, Md.

If an opportunity came for Stewart to do it again, he wouldn't hesitate. "I didn't save Church's life for the award," he said. "I did it because it's something that people do every day – help those in need."

The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from driver's licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.